

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 SCI-06 DOTE-00 OTPE-00

SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

NASA-04 PM-07 RSR-01 /135 W  
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P 131900Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, XT, TGEN

SUBJ: EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE (ESC) MEETING

REF: A. BRUSSELS 3931

B. PARIS 19275

SCI FOR BASTEDO

DEPT PASS NASA

1. SUMMARY: ESRO AND QUAI OFFICIALS GAVE ACCOUNT OF JULY 12

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MINISTERIAL MEETING THAT SUBSTANTIATED MOST POINTS REFTTEL.

MAIN CONCLUSION OF ESRO WAS THAT PROSPECTS OF SORTIE LAB PROGRAM WERE NOT JEOPARDIZED BY OUTCOME OF MEETING. U.K.'S GUARDED WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE 10 PERCENT WAS A SUBSTANTIAL PLUS. QUAI OFFICIAL FELT THAT KEY TO JULY 31 EST MEETING WAS WHETHER NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT COULD DEVELOP A POSITION IN TIME FOR MEETING..

2. KALTENECKER OF ESRO (AND MEMBER OF ESC SECRETARIAT) REPORTED RESULTS OF MEETING TO NASA REP. AS FOLLOWS:

A. SORTIE LAB (SL) - GERMANY AND ITALY REAFFIRMED SUPPORT. FRANCE WILL PARTICIPATE UP TO 10 PERCENT OF L3S APPROVED. U.K. INDICATED PARTICIPATION UP TO 10 PER CENT. SWITZERLAND AND SPAIN WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE. OTHER COUNTRIES NOT READY TO COMMIT. WITH TIME NOW AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION BY NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, ESRO HOPES TO HAVE ITALIAN AND GERMAN SIGNATURES ON THEIR INTERNAL SL BASIC ARRANGEMENT BY JULY 31. ESRO SL BOARD WILL MEET JULY 30 AND ESRO COUNCIL AUGUST 1, BOTH IN BRUSSELS. SPECIFIC POINT MADE THAT CONSIDERED OPINION OF HOCKER, GIBSON, AND KALTENECKER WAS THAT NOTHING WAS LOST IN PROCESS TOWARD ULTIMATE APPROVAL AND THAT THEY REMAIN OPTIMISTIC.

B. MAROTS - U.K. WILL DROP GTS AND CONTRIBUTE 60 PERCENT TO MAROTS WHICH WOULD BE MANAGED BY ESRO WITH HEAVY PARTICIPATION OF U.K. INDUSTRY. GERMANY WILL CONTRIBUTE 10 PERCENT, FRANCE WILL DISCUSS AFTER L3S DECISION, ITALY AND OTHERS WILL STUDY. ONLY SWITZERLAND INDICATED NO INTEREST. HOPE IS THAT SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO MAKE UP DIFFERENCE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM AMONG NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, NORWAY, DENMARK, AND SPAIN.

C. ESA - ALL EXCEPT FRANCE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO WORK TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY. FRANCE INDICATED THEY WOULD DISCUSS IT LATER (PRESUMABLY AFTER APPROVAL OF L3S). COMMITTEE OF ALTERNATES SCHEDULED TO MEET JULY 25 TO IDENTIFY ALL RELATED ISSUES REQUIRING MINISTERIAL LEVEL DECISIONS WITH OBJECTIVES TO OBTAINING THEM AT JULY 31 MEETING.

3. QUAI SPACE OFFICIAL (BOISGELIN) GAVE SCIATT SIMILAR ACCOUNT. HE ADDED THAT ITALIAN REP. AT MEETING (THEIR AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM) WAS IN HIGHLY EMBARRASING POSITION BECAUSE HE WAS UNABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT OWING TO RECENT CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT. SINCE ITALIANS ARE LOOKED ON FOR SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPEAN SPACE PROGRAM (PERHAPS 20 PERCENT TO SORTIE LAB AND 10 TO 12 PERCENT TO L3S) AND SINCE OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS HAVE FIXED THEIR POSITIONS, ITALIANS ARE IN UNFAMILIAR AND UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF HOLDING KEY TO FUTURE OF EUROPEAN SPACE PROGRAM. IT WAS ESSENTIAL, BOISGELIN SAID, THAT ITALIANS DEVELOPED THEIR POSITION BY TIME OF JULY 31 ESC MEETING. COMMITMENTS FROM DUTCH AND

SWEDES WERE NOT ESSENTIAL AS THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE SMALL.

4. BOISGELIN ADDED THAT PRESENT BREAKDOWN OF HOPED-FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO L3S WERE AS FOLLOWS: FRG ABOUT 19 PERCENT, BELGIUM 4 PERCENT, SWITZERLAND 1 PERCENT, DENKARK 0.5 PERCENT, WITH A LESS PROBABLY 2 PERCENT FROM SPAIN, A COUPLE PERCENT FROM SWEDEN AND HOLLAND, AND 10 TO 12 PERCENT FOM ITALY. U.K. DID NOT SWERVE FROM ITS REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN L3S.

5. COMMENT: WITH BRITISH DECISION TO GIVE UP THEIR MARITIME SATTELLITE PROGRAM IN FAVOR OF ESRO MAROTS PROGRAM, THE MAJOR OUTSTANDING ISSUES FACING THE EUROPEAN MINISTERS SEEM TO BE THE SORTIE LAB AND L3S PROGRAMS. FRENCH ARE INSISTENT THAT THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN SORTIE LAB UNLESS THEY OBTAIN SUFFICIENT EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN L3S. BRITISH APPEAR EQUALLY INSISTENT THAT THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN L3S. WITHOUT THE BRITISH, WITH THE ITALIANS NOW A QUESTION MARK, AND WITH THE AEROSAT ISSUE STILL UNRESOLVED REF B, THE PREPARATORY NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE JULY 31 ESC MEETING PROMISE TO MAKE THE NEXT TWO WEEKS EXTREMELY LIVELY.  
IRWIN

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